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ADDRESS

OF THE

REPUBLICAN YOUNG MEN

OF

THE TOWN OF GALWAY,

COUNTY OF SARATOGA,

TO THEIR

FELLOW CITIZENS.

BALLSTON SPA:

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1826.

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At a Meeting of the Republican Young Men of
the town of Galway, friendly to the present Ad-
ministration, held at the house of Jesse H.
Mairs, Saturday, the 6th of Sept. 1828—
JESSE H. MAIRS was called to the Chair, and
OBADIAH PLATT chosen Secretary.

The following Address was read and unani-
mously adopted.

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ADDRESS.

To the Electors of the County of Saratoga :

The undersigned are a committee, selected by the Young Men of Galway, to address you upon the subject of the approaching Presidential election. In the present contest for a Chief Magistrate, unlike the last, we are limited in our choice to the two candidates now before the public—John Quincy Adams and Andrew Jackson. It is in behalf of Mr. Adams that we cheerfully and confidently address you ; and in doing it we shall not repeat the praise so justly his due, and so liberally bestowed upon him from one end of the Union to the other. He has been tried to the utmost and found to be able and faithful in the discharge of his duties. Washington, Jefferson, Madison and Monroe, have all honored him with their confidence and the first offices in the Union, and but six years ago it would have been thought atrocious calumny if any one had called in question his republicanism and integrity. What then shall we think of those men who have formerly *acted* with him—who have *known* the secrets of his conduct, and who have united their voices with the rest of the nation, to praise and to honor him ; and now forsooth, because he will not stoop to reward them with offices and salaries, have abandoned him and the republican party, and united to abuse both ?

No falsehoods have been so mean and despicable—no artifices so weak and contemptible, but they were grasped at by his enemies and used with the utmost address to ruin him. What has been the result ? Every falsehood has been exposed—every artifice detected, and every charge triumphantly refuted. Mr. Adams' character has come out brighter for the abuse that has been heaped upon him : His enemies have only showed in more glowing colors his integrity, worth and talents.

But what has been their conduct respecting Gen. Jackson ? They complain bitterly of the calumnies that have been heaped upon him ! And why has so much been said against him ? Because by presenting him as a candidate for the Presidency, they have by their conduct (though carefully avoiding it by their words,) challenged a scrutiny into his character : And if we take their own words for our authority, no man was ever presented to the public so destitute of qualifications for office, and so worthy of reproaches from a virtuous community. Conscious of this, they are unwilling to allow the least investigation of his character—with regard to him they are unwilling the press should speak the truth, and the voice of the people they feign would stifle in public and in private. Tenderly alive to *his* reputation, (for -

their own is involved with it,) the least discussion of his merits is answered with the cry of *slander, abuse and ingratitude*.

We *pity* their situation. We will grant their request and *ourselves* say nothing of his unsuitness for office—of his foibles and vices. We own that a proper regard for the honor of our country—that duty to ourselves and to the nation seem to demand a different course. But we refrain from the humbling and mortifying task, out of compassion to them, and we are thankful we can do so with safety to the republic. We are not necessitated to do otherwise, because they have done it for us. We will therefore present you with only the *words of his own friends*, respecting his *moral and political character*. We take this course to stop the mouths of his friends; to prevent them from saying *we* have raised our voices to *slander* him. What *they* have said we cannot help, and however repugnant it may be to their feelings, they cannot with any propriety object to our laying before you their own declarations, that you may judge of his fitness for the office of President.

At the close of Mr. Monroe's administration, there were four candidates for the Presidency—Messrs. Adams, Clay, Crawford and Jackson. It must be well remembered by all, that most of those in this State who are *now* in favor of Gen. Jackson, were *then* supporting Wm. H. Crawford. Of course they were as much at enmity with Gen. Jackson as they were with Mr. Adams. What they then said of his political character, you shall see by extracts from their *own* papers. Of John C. Calhoun, (whom they have associated with Gen. Jackson, as a candidate for the office of Vice President,) Mr. Noah, one of their advocates in this State, has said that “they make a positive charge of coalition, bargain and sale. His whole course in his brief but fatal race for the Presidency, has been distinguished for traffics—the erection of presses—the *division of the republican party*—the encouragement of faction, and drawing around him a set of men of broken fortunes and reputation; of, in short, introducing more distraction and mischief in this country, than have ever before been known.” Yet this is the man they recommend to you, now, as a pure and spotless republican.

Their other papers of the same date speak as follows of Gen. Jackson:

“We do not quarrel with Mr. Jackson for his belief of the dissolution of the democratic party. But we object to his claims as the *democratic candidate*; and to the claims which have been set up by his friends, in defiance of all fact, as the supporter of the interest of the republican party. Let him stand upon his own declarations, as the disclaimer of all party support, and let repub-

licans remember, that the support of him is the abandonment of themselves."

The well known oracle of the Jackson party—the Albany Argus, in 1824, says further, that

"The fact is clear that Mr. Jackson has not a single feeling in common with the republican party. The reverse of that—he desires, and makes a merit of desiring the *total extinction* of it."

"It is an idle thing in this State, however it may be in others, to strive even for a moderate support of Mr. Jackson. He is wholly out of the question as far as the votes of New-York are in it. Independently of the disclosures of his political opinions, he could not be the republican candidate. He is respected as a gallant soldier, but he stands, in the minds of the people of this state, at an immeasurable distance from the Executive chair."

"His HABITS, aside from his politics, are quite TOO SUMMARY for that."

"The course adopted by Mr. Jackson is food and raiment to the federalists and no party men. It is pleasant to all who strive for the destruction of the democratic party. They will every where applaud, as they have preached it, and will MAGNIFY THE AUTHOR of doctrines which are so well intended FOR THEIR SERVICE."

"The political notions of Mr. Jackson cannot be mistaken.—Under the artful disguise of elevating men most conspicuous for their probity, virtue, &c. he is bent upon the destruction of the republican party."

These, we confess, are heavy charges against Gen. Jackson's political principles. But those who are his friends now, were well apprised that they had the best of authority for so proclaiming them to the public. His conduct while a member of the Convention that framed the Constitution of Tennessee, fully warranted them in making these assertions.

The provisions which he sought to have engrafted in that Constitution were these :

1. No man should be qualified for a member of the Legislature, unless he possessed a freehold of two hundred acres of land.
2. That no man should hold the office of Governor, unless he possessed a freehold of 500 acres of land.
- 3d. That no man should vote, unless he possessed a freehold—and
- 4th. If a man possessed a freehold in one county, he should be entitled to one vote, if he possessed a freehold in two counties, he should be entitled to two votes ; and if he possessed a freehold in three counties, he should be entitled to three votes,—and so

on, so that a rich man could give a number of votes, while a poor man could not vote at all. His arguments and votes in favor of these aristocratic and anti-republican principles, are recorded in the journals of the convention, and speak the principles of the man.

Another as well authenticated fact, is his unrelenting animosity to the father of our country. When General Washington retired from office, General Jackson was a member of Congress from Tennessee.

That body voted an address of thanks to the veteran and apostle of liberty, but to the disgrace of our republic, there were men determined to withhold that consolation from his grey hairs. General Jackson was one of them. We blush to own his vote is so recorded in opposition to the best, most wise, and most patriotic of men. We agree with his supporters, now, though so lately his honest opponents, that we have no confidence in his political principles. We agree with them that they had cogent reasons for proclaiming his anti-republican principles, and we will continue on their authority and on the authority of the public records to warn the honest yeomanry of the state, against the danger of elevating him to the Presidency. But for some marvellous reason, best known to the actors, the political scene is strangely shifted. Either General Jackson has renounced his anti-republican and aristocratic principles, and joined the republican party, or his present supporters have abandoned that party and joined him. They have abandoned it in the support of him, or they never belonged to it, and if we judge right of the political complexion of their leaders, we should say they never belonged to it.— Among them we see but few old republicans, and we recognize many who were stigmatized as the agents of the enemies of our country in distracting her councils, and paralyzing her efforts for independence. But we will not quarrel with his present supporters about their republicanism, if they will show us *his*, and if they will point us to the *time* of his remarkable somerset in favor of republicanism, we will grant him full absolution for his political sins. *When* was it during the past four years that he took this turn?— Is four years so long that they have forgotten the *day* of his political regeneration? Or has it not yet passed? If it has passed at all, it is not long since, for if we believe their own words, he was *four* years ago, an enemy to the republican party, and “*bent upon its destruction.*”

We ask again—*when* was it within the past four years, that he joined the republican standard? By what act are we apprised of his conviction? We confess we know not the time, and we see not the act, that bids us greet him as a member of the republican

party. His friends in this state, shut him out four years ago, and his friends at the South, have not strengthened his claims upon our confidence. They profess to be, and they would have us think they are, the *only* republicans of the nation, yet they refuse obedience to a law passed by the representatives of the people, and one in which they had *more* than a proportioned representation. We thought the motto "the majority should rule" was the watch-word of Republicans. How admirably is it exemplified by the Jacksonians of the South! Sure it must be the very *spirit* of Republicanism, that prompts them to rebel against the will of the majority of the nation. They profess to be patriots—zealous for the honor and interests of the union—yet because a law supposed to be at variance with *their* interest—though of acknowledged utility to the whole—be enacted, they threaten disunion and civil war. Their governours boldly defy the national government, which they have sworn to support, and to secure a change in the administration, threaten us with the interference of England in *their* behalf. Fellow citizens, these things *are so*. We see an unwillingness prevails to believe them. It is natural. And it is the policy of General Jackson's friends in this state, to conceal it from you. They deny it in the face of all fact. We do not ask you to take our statements, or the statements of any administration paper, but we wish, and we ask you to read for yourselves, the Jacksonian papers of the South, and then judge of their claims to be the *only* republicans and patriots of the nation. *They* tell a tale we ourselves can hardly believe—they publish their own disgrace, and warn us to be vigilant, if we would preserve the peace and happiness of the Union.

Of General Jackson's *moral* character, we will present you again with their own picture, and we will give you the grounds from which they have sketched it. Preparatry to the last presidential election, there was a legislative caucus held in Columbia, for the purpose of nominating John C. Calhoun, for the presidency. After the speeches in favor of Mr. Calhoun were made, and the motion to nominate moved, Gen. Glasscock, of Edgefield district, moved to amend the motion, by striking out John C. Calhoun, and inserting Andrew Jackson. This motion was seconded. There was considerable excitement, on account of this motion to amend, to allay which Mr. Pinckney, editor of the Charleston Mercury, and now a warm and prominent supporter of General Jackson, made the following speech:

"Mr. Chairman—I am astonished that any man should have appeared here to night, to mar our proceedings, when, it is well known, that the object of our meeting was to nominate John C. Calhoun, for the presidency. But, when we are insulted with the

nomination of the most perfect TYRANT upon earth, the man who sets laws at defiance ; who is stained with VICES of the DEEPEST DYE ; and whose will alone is his rule of conduct, whose life has been chiefly distinguished by BRUTAL VIOLATIONS of private right, my astonishment can hardly be expressed. I had rather see the arch intriguer Crawford, the plodding systematic yankee, Adams, or the unprincipled Clay ; nay, any citizen, however high, or however low, made president, than this MILITARY DESPOT. I hope you will take the vote upon my motion, and settle the question at once."

Here, you have the *honest* opinions of those who are now Gen. Jackson's friends, respecting his moral character, and we would have you remember, that even in that hour of excitement, they gave Mr. Adams no character of which he need be ashamed.—It is not to be presumed that even now, zealous as they are in the support of Gen. Jackson, they will deny themselves and say that they then made unjust charges against his character. They take a different course. They will not—they cannot be forced to say one word respecting the charges they then preferred against him ; but they continue to repeat, over and over again, his praise, until it has become stale and fulsome : making a mockery of the lives of such men as Jefferson and Madison. We have quoted only one of their expressions, because our limits would not allow us to quote more ; and we have selected it, because it is a pithy summing up of the whole. Indeed it is a serious charge.

" VICES of the DEEPEST DYE !"

These, if we mistake not, include assassination and murder, and we will see upon what authority they dared to make this charge.

Doubtless one authority was his shooting Mr. Dickinson. They quarrelled about a horse race, and the HERO OF NEW ORLEANS was pleased to show his *bravery* and sense of *honor*, in a personal conflict with Mr. Dickinson. They fought. Gen. Jackson's pistol snapped. Mr. Dickinson's fire was ineffectual, but he stood firm and silent. Was there no appeal to the General's generosity for a *defenceless* man ? No ! Sure of his victim—he cocked his pistol—took *deliberate aim* and shot him dead. We would not rob him of the *glory* that he won, or envy the complacency of his temper. The deed was his, and let him enjoy all its rewards, and all its honors. Another ground for the charge of murder, was his execution of Arbutnot and Ambrister.

By the common law, as laid down by Sir Edward Coke, (3d inst. 52) " If a Lieutenant or other that hath commission of military authority, doth in time of peace, HANG, or otherwise execute

any man, by color of Martial law, this is MURDER." The 5th article to the amendments of the constitution, prohibits capital punishments, unless on *indictment*, except "*in time of war or public danger*;" and the 65th article of "Rules, &c." requires the proceedings in *any case extending to loss of life*, in time of peace, to be laid before the President, &c. Now, that we were at peace, we will give you Gen. Jackson's own testimony; for on the very day that he put these criminals upon their trial, he wrote to the Secretary of War in the following words:

"The Indian forces have been divided and scattered—cut off from all communication with the unprincipled agents of foreign nations, who have deluded them to their ruin; they have not the power, if the *will* remain, of again annoying our frontier."

Yet, in *defiance of the constitution*, he put these men upon their trial, in which their *lives* were involved. And this is not all. In defiance of the *sentence of his own Court Martial*, he ordered them *both* executed, when he knew at the same time, that one only was sentenced to death, and the other sentenced to imprisonment. These facts are proved by public documents—by the records of the Court Martial that tried the convicts, and by the General's order for their execution. If in your opinion he is excused for putting them on their trial, in violation of the constitution, by the "*necessity of the times*," (the never failing plea of tyrants) how was he justified for putting Arbuthnot to death, when he was only sentenced to imprisonment? In this, if in nothing else, he is a *murderer*. And it was a murder committed under the most aggravating circumstances. We will lay aside the fact of their both being tried unconstitutionally, and take this act *alone*. If we had room to lay before you a true account of the evidence produced against Arbuthnot, you would all concede, that he was entitled to much clemency from the court, if not to an acquittal. As a prisoner, he was entitled to all due clemency from the court and from the General, and as a man, he was certainly entitled to the *protection* of the laws. If he was not entitled to their *protection*, it is clear that he was not *subject* to them. If he was subject to the jurisdiction of the court, no man, however high in authority, had a legal or moral right, to inflict a greater punishment than what the court judged proper to award. And further, if Gen. Jackson had a right to put him to death, after his trial, in violation of the sentence of the court, he had a right to put him to death before. If he had that right—if the victim was doomed *before trial* to suffer *death*, let the sentence of his judges be what it would, then why did Gen. Jackson go through with the mockery of a trial. If he had not, it would have been better for his reputation. For in that case, the record and the judgment of

the court would never have been left to reveal the secret, that the prisoner only merited imprisonment at most. In Ireland, juries have been packed, witnesses have been bribed, and every means have been made use of to procure a sentence of death against unfortunate rebels. But even in that land of tyranny, the sentence of those courts has been observed, let them be what they would. But the English government is no longer supreme in sin. It is left for America—free, enlightened America—the boasted land of equal justice, liberty and laws, to exhibit the monstrous inconsistency of a constitution violated, of laws disregarded, and of the merciful sentences of her courts being but the prelude to arbitrary, wicked and atrocious murders. Gen. Jackson's political friends, *now* seek to connect this case of Arbuthnot's, with that of Ambrister, and to excuse the execution of both, on the plea that it was an act of retaliation. But General Jackson never made this plea himself, for the very good reason that he had no right to claim it. The Court Martial, of which Gen. Scott was president, has decided that "*Acts of retaliation on the part of a nation proud of its rights, and conscious of the power of enforcing them, should be reluctantly resorted to, and only by INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE HIGHEST AUTHORITY.*"

Where, we ask, were Gen. Jackson's instructions? The fact is he had none. He took it upon himself, regardless of consequences, to make *his own will* his rule of conduct.

Another ground, for their accusing him of "*VICES of the DEEPEST DYE,*" was his attempted assassination of Senator Benton. This happened in the year 1813. 'We prefer giving you Col. Benton's own account of it, both because his name and character is sufficient authority for the truth of it, and because not a *particle* of that account has been gainsayed or denied, by Gen. Jackson or any of his friends, although it has been frequently published in every part of the Union.'

FRANKLIN, (Tenn.) Sept. 10, 1813.

"A difference which had been some months brewing between Gen. Jackson and myself, produced, on Saturday the 4th inst. in the town of Nashville, the most outrageous AFFRAY ever witnessed in a civilized country. In communicating this affair to my friends and fellow citizens, I limit myself to the statement of a few leading FACTS, the truth of which I am ready to establish by judicial proofs.

"1. That myself and my brother Jesse Benton, arrived in Nashville on the morning of the affray, and knowing of General Jackson's threats, went and took our lodgings in a different house from the one in which he stayed, on purpose to avoid him.

"2. That the General and some of his friends came to the house where we had put up, commenced an attack by LEVELLING A PISTOL AT ME, when I had no weapon drawn, and advancing upon me at quick pace, without giving me time to draw one.

"3. Seeing this, my brother fired upon Gen. Jackson, when he had got within eight or ten feet of me.

"4. That four other pistols were fired in quick succession ; one by Gen. Jackson at me, two by me at the General, and one by Col. Coffee at me. In the course of this firing, Gen. Jackson was brought to the ground, but I received no hurt.

"5. That daggers were then drawn. Colonel Coffee and Mr. Alex. Donaldson made at me and gave me five slight wounds.—Capt. Hammond and Mr. Stukely Hays, engaged my brother, who being still weak from the effects of a severe wound he lately received, was not able to resist two men. They got him down, and while Capt. Hammond beat him on the head, to make him lay still, Mr. Hays attempted to STAB him, and wounded him in both arms as he lay on his back, parrying his thrusts with his naked hands. From this situation, a generous hearted citizen of Nashville, Mr. Summer, relieved him. Before he came to the ground, my brother clapped a loaded pistol to Mr. Hays' breast, to blow him through, but it missed fire.

"6. My own and my brother's pistols carried two balls each ; for it was our intention, if driven to arms, to have no child's play. The pistols fired at me, were so near, that the blaze of the muzzle of one of them burnt the sleeve of my coat, and the other aimed at my head, at little more than arms length distance from it.

"7. Capt. Carroll was to have taken part in the affray, but was absent by the permission of Gen. Jackson, as he has since proved by the General's certificate, which reflects less honor, I know not whether upon the General, or upon the Captain.

"8. That this attack was made upon me in the house where the Judge of the district, Mr. Searcy, had his lodgings ! So little are the laws and its ministers respected ! Nor has the civil authority yet taken cognizance of this horrible outrage.

THOMAS HART BENTON,
Lieut. Col. 39th Infantry."

What Gen. Jackson's provocations were for this attempt to kill Mr. Benton, we cannot say. But we can fancy none which could justify Gen. Jackson in thus breaking the laws of both God and man. We leave this transaction to speak for itself. We leave it for you to decide upon the propriety of elevating to the highest

office in the nation, the man, who, if he had perpetrated his crimes in this State, or in any other State, where the laws are enforced, would have been doomed to expiate them in a punishment certainly not less than imprisonment. Who, among those we now address, would have escaped a just punishment for such crimes? How admirably must his mind be prepared to execute the laws with vigilance and impartiality—laws which he has so often and so openly violated. With what confidence could we look up to him as the father of our country—as the protector of our liberties, and the preserver of our institutions? We confess our apprehensions. We agree with Gen. Jackson's friends, that his nomination is an insult to the community, and we cannot but regret that they who were so lately proclaiming these truths from their public oracles, should *now* embrace him, and connect their fortunes with his. It is no flattering compliment to the moral sense and intelligence of Americans. It verifies the ancient maxim, that "*Laws are like cubwebs—great flies break through them, while little one's only are caught.*" And we are willing also, to leave the question for republicans to determine, whether they will elevate to the presidency, a man whom his friends say, and whom public documents prove, to be anti-republican and aristocratic in his principles, and who, according to their language, is "the most perfect tyrant upon earth—the man who sets laws at defiance—who is stained with vices of the deepest dye—and whose will alone is his rule of conduct, whose life is chiefly distinguished by brutal violations of private right."

No matter, if they *now* deny the depravity of his character.—They have again and again proclaimed it in living colors, and from the best of evidence. That evidence still exists and his character is still the same. We have now, nothing but the interested assertions of his supporters, to strengthen our confidence in the value of his moral and political character. And if what they assert now, is true, what they asserted four years ago was false—if what they asserted four years ago was false, we leave it for all to judge of the credit to which they now are entitled. For ourselves we unhesitatingly give our support to Mr. Adams. Mr. Jefferson, who was well acquainted with his talents and integrity recommended him to the notice of Gen. Washington, by whom he was selected as a minister resident to the Netherlands. Since that period he has enjoyed the utmost confidence of Washington, Jefferson, Madison and Monroe, and has been continued by them in office with the approbation of the republican party, and of the nation at large. But there were other candidates for the presidency at the last election, and it is the disappointed partizans of all these, that have now united to oppose him. If, however, they

would destroy the confidence which all true republicans repose in him, they must show that he has abandoned that party and the principles it supports. Have they done so? And if they would destroy the confidence which the nation generally repose in him, they must point us to some act of his, calculated to weaken that confidence. Have they done so? We know they have not.—They have attempted it, but failed.

Of General Jackson, all know we have only repeated what his friends themselves have said. Aware that the contradictions in their conduct, ought to destroy all confidence in their assertions, we have given the proofs which warranted them in making those charges upon his character. Most of their proofs are public documents, which originated with himself. They disclose facts which if he or his friends dare deny, the denial would only add another proof of their disregard for truth, and for their own characters. Other charges have been preferred against Gen. Jackson—which we shall not now discuss; not because they are unjustly made, and he successfully defended from them, but because they are unimportant in comparison with those we have examined.—If true, they cannot add a deeper stain to his character, and if it were possible for his friends to prove them false, their success could not free him from other “*CRIMES of the DEEPEST DYE.*”

But we disclaim all intention of endeavoring unjustly to excite prejudice against him. We are not under the necessity of making false charges or unfair insinuations, while these charges—so true, and so well supported by facts, have heretofore been urged against him by his present supporters. Nor will the peculiar turpitude of his crimes, be urged with an unnecessary severity. We will not descend to scandalize him, as his friends have done before us—but we let facts speak for themselves—let a just sense of the crimes he has committed have only its proper influence upon the public mind, and the result is not to be feared. If they do not impress upon all, the conviction of his entire unfitness to be our chief magistrate, no crimes will—no character can be too black for our support. How admirably must his mind be prepared to execute the laws he has so often and openly violated! With what confidence can the nation look up to him as the guardian and protector of the constitution, who has so frequently violated its provisions? It is to the candid and intelligent of all parties, that this paper is addressed—to those who have the independence to look, and who can see for themselves, that we make this appeal. The question is not merely, whether we will have a republican, or a federalist, for a president—but whether we will have a good or a bad man to fill that office—whether we will have one who is an honor and a treasure to his country, or one who is a murderer. and

a disgrace to it—whether we will retain him to govern us, from whom we have every thing to hope, or whether we will call him to be our ruler, from whom we have every thing to fear? These are the questions you are to decide—and we leave the subject for your serious consideration, believing you will bestow upon it all the attention its importance requires. The citizens of *New-Orleans*, have declared their determination by an overwhelming majority. It was over them that Gen. Jackson ruled with such despotic sway. It was over them that he displayed his tyranny. If any people can appreciate his civil qualifications, his worth, or his talents, *they can*; and if any people can judge correctly of his unfitness for office, surely it is the citizens of New Orleans.—They have decided. If he rules again, it is not by their votes.—Their election has passed, and the republicans of Louisiana adhere still to the honor and interest of their country—Go ye and do likewise.









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